

## Preparing yourself and your spirit to hear from God –

*Compare spiritual growth to natural maturing process...*

1. Small children from birth to about 2 or 3 need to be told what to do or need to have things done for them. They cannot have choices.
2. toddlers / preschool should have very very very few choices.
3. Elementary age should have a choice between 2 things
4. Middle school age should be limited on choices.
5. High school age should have to learn consequences for major decisions with a very limited safety net. (like once or twice a year)
6. College should be ready to make all life decisions. Parents should not enable.
7. Adults have free will with prosperity and poverty, you can own your own business or go to prison!

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1. Small **steps of obedience** stretches our capacity and enlarges our receptors.

Where have we been disobedient?

2. **Understanding** comes from hunger / desire / pursuit.

How much time do we spend in God's word and prayer? (Devotions)

3. Open reservoirs must be created by not **filling our spirit** with worldly junk.

How much time do we spend filling up on movies, music, games, tv, etc

Prioritize your time, say NO

4. **Be ready and expectant** – you don't stay pregnant forever!

Expect to give birth to a vision and a revelation!

1 Cor 11:11 When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things. 12 For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.

1 Peter 2:2 - As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:

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Hosea 4:6 - my people are destroyed from lack of knowledge. "Because you have rejected knowledge, I also reject you as my priests; because you have ignored the law of your God, I also will ignore your children.

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1 Sam 15:22 - "Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the LORD? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams.

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1 Cor 3: And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual *people* but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ. <sup>2</sup>I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able *to receive it*, and even now you are still not able; <sup>3</sup>for you are still carnal. For where *there are* envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like *mere* men?

1 Cor 2:14 - The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit.

1 Cor 2:12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.

1 Cor 2:10 But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searches all things, yea, the deep things of God.

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**Expecting? -**

**Phil 1:20 - I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death.**

**Psalms 5:3 - In the morning, Lord, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait expectantly.**

**Isa 58:4 - Your fasting ends in quarreling and strife, and in striking each other with wicked fists. You cannot fast as you do today and expect your voice to be heard on high.**

**Matt 24:50 - The master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he is not aware of.**

**Luke 3:15 - The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah.**

**Luke 7:19 – John the Baptist - he sent them to the Lord to ask, “Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?”**

**Acts 3:1- 5 - One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer—at three in the afternoon. <sup>2</sup> Now a man who was lame from birth was being carried to the temple gate called Beautiful, where he was put every day to beg from those going into the temple courts. <sup>3</sup> When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money. <sup>4</sup> Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, “Look at us!” <sup>5</sup> So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them. <sup>6</sup> Then Peter said, “Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.”**

**Acts 16:13 - <sup>13</sup> On the Sabbath we went outside the city gate to the river, where we expected to find a place of prayer. We sat down and began to speak to the women who had gathered there. <sup>14</sup> One of those listening was a woman from the city of Thyatira named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth. She was a worshiper of God.**

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## Expectation of Peter and Cornelius -

**Peter and Cornelius – Acts 10** - <sup>9</sup> About noon the following day as they were on their journey and approaching the city, Peter went up on the roof to pray. <sup>10</sup> He became hungry and wanted something to eat, and while the meal was being prepared, he fell into a trance. <sup>11</sup> He saw heaven opened and something like a large sheet being let down to earth by its four corners. <sup>12</sup> It contained all kinds of four-footed animals, as well as reptiles and birds. <sup>13</sup> Then a voice told him, “Get up, Peter. Kill and eat.”

<sup>14</sup> “Surely not, Lord!” Peter replied. “I have never eaten anything impure or unclean.”

<sup>15</sup> The voice spoke to him a second time, “Do not call anything impure that God has made clean.”

<sup>16</sup> This happened three times, and immediately the sheet was taken back to heaven.

<sup>17</sup> While Peter was wondering about the meaning of the vision, the men sent by Cornelius found out where Simon’s house was and stopped at the gate. <sup>18</sup> They called out, asking if Simon who was known as Peter was staying there.

<sup>19</sup> While Peter was still thinking about the vision, the Spirit said to him, “Simon, three<sup>[a]</sup> men are looking for you. <sup>20</sup> So get up and go downstairs. Do not hesitate to go with them, for I have sent them.”

<sup>21</sup> Peter went down and said to the men, “I’m the one you’re looking for. Why have you come?”

<sup>22</sup> The men replied, “We have come from Cornelius the centurion. He is a righteous and God-fearing man, who is respected by all the Jewish people. A holy angel told him to ask you to come to his house so that he could hear what you have to say.” <sup>23</sup> Then Peter invited the men into the house to be his guests.

## Peter at Cornelius’s House

The next day Peter started out with them, and some of the believers from Joppa went along. <sup>24</sup> The following day he arrived in Caesarea. Cornelius was expecting them and had called together his relatives and close friends. <sup>25</sup> As Peter entered the house, Cornelius met him and fell at his feet in reverence. <sup>26</sup> But Peter made him get up. “Stand up,” he said, “I am only a man myself.”

<sup>27</sup> While talking with him, Peter went inside and found a large gathering of people. <sup>28</sup> He said to them: “You are well aware that it is against our law for a Jew to associate with or visit a Gentile. But God has shown me that I should not call anyone impure or unclean. <sup>29</sup> So when I was sent for, I came without raising any objection. May I ask why you sent for me?”

<sup>30</sup> Cornelius answered: “Three days ago I was in my house praying at this hour, at three in the afternoon. Suddenly a man in shining clothes stood before me <sup>31</sup> and said, ‘Cornelius, God has heard your prayer and remembered your gifts to the poor. <sup>32</sup> Send to Joppa for Simon who is called Peter. He is a guest in the home of Simon the tanner, who lives by the sea.’ <sup>33</sup> So I sent for you immediately, and it was good of you to come. Now we are all here in the presence of God to listen to everything the Lord has commanded you to tell us.”

<sup>34</sup> Then Peter began to speak: “I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism <sup>35</sup> but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right.